

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCCT-01 /068 W

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P R 201610Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7544

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

USDAO CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 0648

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ELAB PINS TD

SUBJECT: LABOR/POLITICAL CRISIS - SITUATION REPORT 1000 -
MARCH 20, 1975

REF: POS 644 MARCH 20 AND PREVIOUS

1. WITH NO DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FOR TODAY AND WITH THE RETURN OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE TENSION PREVIOUSLY EVIDENT IN THE COUNTRY HAS EASED SOMEWHAT. CONTINUING SHORTAGES OF GASOLINE AT SERVICE STATIONS HAVE AFFECTED THE OPERATION OF MANY BUSINESSES AND FACTORIES AND ALSO TRANSPORTATION BY PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS. TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS AND THE WATER SHORTAGES CAUSED BY THE ELECTRICAL POWER FAILURES HAVE CAUSED MANY SCHOOLS TO CLOSE AND HAS FORCED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21.

2. FEDERATION CHEMICALS CLOSED DOWN MOST OF ITS OPERATION MARCH 19 BECAUSE OF DISRUPTIONS IN THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY
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AND A SYMPATHY STRIKE BY THE OWTU-ORGANIZED WORK FORCE.

THE NESTLE FACTORY, WHICH HAD EARLIER EXPERIENCED TROUBLE DUE TO FUEL SHORTAGES, HAS ALSO SHUT DOWN ITS PLANTS DUE TO ELECTRICITY AND WATER PROBLEMS.

3. ABOUT 500 PERSONS ATTENDED AN INCIDENT-FREE UNITED LABOUR FRONT RALLY AT WOODFORD SQUARE TO HEAR SPEECHES BY ALL TRINIDAD PRESIDENT BASDEO PANDAY AND TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS UNION PRESIDENT JOE YOUNG. AFTER THE MEETING YOUNG WAS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE ON THE SAME "PARTICIPATING IN AN ILLEGAL MARCH" CHARGE ON WHICH THE OTHER ULF LEADERS WERE ARRESTED ON MARCH 18. RAFFIQUE SHAH, THE ONLY ULF LEADER WHO HAS SO FAR ESCAPED ARREST, IS STILL AT LARGE.

4. OPPOSITION LEADER ROY RICHARDSON HAS JOINED OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS AND EDITORIAL WRITERS IN CALLING ON PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS AND THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK OUT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION. ASIDE FROM STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE POLICE, HOWEVER, NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS YET INDICATED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, POLICIES, LABOR STRIKES, PUBLIC UTILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO00648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750098-0823
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750332/aaaabcoo.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 POS 644, 75 MARCH 20
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR/POLITICAL CRISIS - SITUATION REPORT 1000 - MARCH 20, 1975
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PINS, TD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006